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Message Text

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53
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 GAC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NIC-01 EB-11 INT-08

ACDA-19 RSR-01 /156 W
---------- 115757
R 050945 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1469
INFO RUFN
S/ USINT ALGIERS 607
KAMEMBASSY AMMAN 7475
USINT BAGHDAD
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3925

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF
SUBJ: SOV- BACKED BEIRUT WEEKLY COMMENTS ON US POLICY IN PERSIAN GULF

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: LOCAL COMMUNIST WEEKLY AL AKHBAR, WHICH ACTS AS MOUTHPIECE FOR SOV VIEWS DESIGNED FOR ARAB CONSUMPTION, CARRIED LONG ARTICLE MAR 31 ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ARAB OIL AND US POLICY IN PERSIAN GULF. CLAIMED USG CONSPIRES WITH " REACTIONARY" ARAB GOVTS AND IRAN TO OBSTRUCT ADVANCE OF " PROGESSIVE" AND NATIONALISTIC FORCES IN GULF AND THEREBY PRESERVE PRIVILEGED POSITION OF WESTERN " OIL MONOPOLIES". END SUMMARY.
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2. AKHBAR, IN ARTICLE ENTITLED " AMERICAN PLOT EMRACING OILFIELDS AND TERMINALS", STATED THAT ARAB OIL AND US POLICY HAVE NEVER BEEN SO ENMESHED THAN AT PRESENT. CLAIMED THIS EXPLAINS SHIFT IN AMERICAN AND WESTERN INTEREST IN ME FROM SUEZ CANAL TO PERSIAN GULF, WHERE US POLICY NOW FUCUSSED ON GUARANTEEING PRIVILEGES OF " OIL MONOPOLIES" IN FACE OF THREAT REPRESENTED BY EMERGING NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS. ALLEGED THAT AMERICA' S " DIRECT ROLEIN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL' S 1967 AGGRESSTION" WAS AIMED SUCCESSFULLY AT WEAKENING EGYPT AND SYRIA IN ORDER PREVENT THEM FROM INTERFERING WITH EFFORTS BY " RULING US CIRCLES" TO ORGANIZE CONDITIONS IN GULF AREA TO US SATISFACTION.

3. ARTICLE SAID THAT WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA THUS WEAKEDED AND PREOCCUPIED, ONLY " PROGRESSIVE" ARAB FORCES CAPABLE OF CHALLENGING US " PLOT" IN GULF ARE IRAQ -- WHICH BY ITS NATIONALIZATION OF IPC HAS ALREADY CAUSED CONSTERNATION AMONG AMERICAN OIL " MONOPOLIES" -- AND NATIONALIST, ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH YEMEN, KUWAIT, BAHRAIN, OMAN AND DHOFAR. SAW MAIN THRUST OF US POLICY DIRECTED AT MOBILIZING " REACTIONARY" ARAB REGIMES (E. G., SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN) TO CONFINE THIS DANGER, JUST AS IT USES THEM TO " LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND STRIKE AT SYRIA' S PROGRESSIVE REGIME." IN GULF, SAID ARTICLE, US ALSO WORKS TO (A) BUILD IRAN INTO AREA' S STRONGEST POLITICAL AND MILITARY FORCE TO SAFEGUARD AMERICAN INTERESTS AND ACT AS COUNTERWEIGHT AND INSTRUMENT OF PRESSURE AGAINST IRAQ, AND (B) REORGANIZE AND EQUIP SAUDI ARMED FORCES TO ACT AS BACK- UP FORCE FOR SAME PURPOSE.

4. AKHBAR SAW " PROVOCATIONS BY KUWAITI REACTIONARIES" SUPPORTED BY SAG, AGAINST IRAQ AS PART OF SAME DIRE PLOT. SAID ANTI- IRAQ PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN NOW BEING MOUNTED TO WEAKEN BAGHDAD9' S INFLUENCE AND CAPABILITIES IN GULF AREA IN ORDER THAT " IMPERIALIST OIL MONOPOLIES" MAY BENEFIT FROM INCREASED PRODUCTION FROM KUWAITI AND SAUDI OILFIELDS. CALIMED THAT ALLEGATIONS RE SOVIET " GREEDY AMBITIONS" IN GULF ARE DESIGNED TO COVER THIS " CRIMINAL PLOT", AND PREDICTED THAT IRAQ' S " FIRM STAND AGAINST IMPERIALISM, REACTION AND MONOPOLIES, TOGETHER WITH ITS RELIANCE ON SOV FRIENDSHIP AS BASIC SOURCE OF SUPPORT", UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD NEVERTHELESS SUCCEED IN CHANGING POWER BALANCE

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IN GULF IN INTEREST OF ITS PEOPLE.
BUFFUM

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AMMAN
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